

## REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the case.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected.

Claim 1 stands objected.

Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2-5 are cancelled.

No new matter is added.

Claim 1 remains in the case.

### *Preamble*

The Examiner stated in the official action dated June 22, 2005 that the preamble of claim 1 merely recites the use or purpose (e.g. “for cubicle partitioning frames”) of the claimed invention such that the body of the claim following the preamble is a self-contained description of the structure and does not depend on the preamble for completeness. Accordingly, the examiner has determined that the preamble does not limit the claim. The examiner has considered the claims **without** combination (emphasis added).

The preamble of claim 1 is amended to recite a cubicle partitioning frames connector apparatus.

### *Claim Rejections- 35 USC § 112*

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 3 and 4 are cancelled.

### *Claim Objections*

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

The limitation “a hitching jaw” (lines 13-14 of claim 1) should be replaced with –a third hitching jaw—in order to differentiate from the first and second previously claimed hitching jaws.

Claim 1 is amended to recite third hitching jaw. Thus, the claim objection is now overcome.

***Claim Rejections- 35 USC § 102***

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,620,291 (Hayes).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

With respect to amended claim 1, the claim is amended to include the subject matter of claim 4 such that the claim recites that the connector housing is formed with a hole structured to easily insert a driver or a rod for turning.

In Hayes, slot 34 in nut 30, as shown in FIGS. 2-3 and as explained at column 2, line 62 through column 3, line 22, is a slot corresponding to ribs 22, 23 of the bolt 10. Slot 34 is not a hole structured to receive easily a driver or a rod for turning. Further, the ribs 22, 23 of the bolt 10 are not a first hitching jaw because they are not used as a hitching jaw. Rather, the ribs 22, 23 are merely used as a locator for a nut 30 and a bolt 34 and are guiding surfaces for the travel of the ramps 40.

Thus, Hayes fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Hayes and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 are cancelled.

***Claim Rejections-35 USC § 103***

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,620,291 (Hayes) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,259,684 (Scharer)

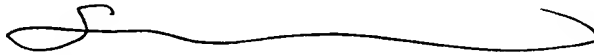
Claim 5 is cancelled.

***Conclusion***

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22213-1450

Date: September 22, 2005



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